



To ensure our government officials never again have the ability to subvert our democracy by obfuscating electronic evidence, **Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of Tea Party Patriots**, issued the following statement calling for the support of Rep. Mark Meadows' (R-NC) bill to improve the nation's email/record retention laws.

"Mark Meadows' bill to finally put some teeth in the laws covering government email is long overdue, and we fully support his efforts. HR 5170 is an important measure in ensuring government responsibility. It also would have prevented a lot of the problems we've seen this year with former Internal Revenue Service official Lois Lerner and a growing circle of IRS employees claiming they 'lost emails' in what appears to be an effort to escape accountability for their actions.

This bill also makes elected officials, administration appointees, and their staff more accountable by placing strict sanctions on those who would seek to operate within a shadow government by using personal or secret email accounts for conducting government business.

With debate on Rep. Meadows' bill scheduled for Tuesday and a vote expected Wednesday, we encourage our members and other concerned Americans to contact their representatives to express their support for this important legislation. Government is supposed to be accountable to the people and HR 5170 will help ensure this principle is made clear to those who serve the American public."

For more information or to